>

Title: Need to provide Central pension to State Freedom Fighter Pensioners in the Country.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I wish to draw the attention of the Government with regard to some of the problems being faced by the freedom fighters of our country. Earlier also, I raised this issue in this House, and the Chair has positively responded to that, but the Government has not taken any decision on that. This is the Sixty-first year of our Independence. We are forgetting the freedom fighters who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this country. The Central Government has already recognized the various freedom struggles that took place in various parts of our country. It is on the basis of this assessment that the State Government concerned has formed the Monitoring Committee, and these Monitoring Committees have assessed or identified the deserving persons who would get the pension under the State scheme. Almost all the States have taken the decision, and also the Central Government has given pension to some of the freedom fighters. However, many of the freedom fighters are denied this pension and there is no valid reason for the rejection. The freedom fighters who have approached the High Courts and the Supreme Court are getting it, but it is not possible for those persons who are on the sick-bed or in the twilight years of their lives to approach the High Courts or the Supreme Court as they are not financially well off. You will find that they took part in freedom struggles in Kayyur, Karivalur, Punnapura Vayalar in Kerala; in West Bengal, in Thebaga; in Andhra Pradesh, in Telangana; and in many other struggles. If you take, for example, Goa, the RIN Mutiny was also considered as a part of the freedom struggle, but only a few people were given the pension. There is no justification on the part of the Government for not giving any consideration to these people even in these times. The Government is spending crores and crores of rupees on many things. These freedom fighters are very few in number. So, I would request the Government to take urgent action on this issue.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): Sir, I associate with what he has stated.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, I also associate with him.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, I also associate with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Members can associate themselves.